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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CL2108PCT	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US 03/26331	International filing date (day/month/year) 21.08.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 22.08.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C07C17/20		
<p><b>Applicant</b> E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY et al.</p>		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</li> <li>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</li> <li>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</li> <li>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</li> <li>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</li> <li>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</li> <li>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</li> <li>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</li> </ul>		

Date of submission of the demand 19.03.2004	Date of completion of this report 21.06.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  Goetz, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8105



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US 03/26331

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-25 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

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**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-3
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-3
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-3
	No:	Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US 03/26331

D1: EP-A-0434409

D2: WO-A-9951553

1. D1 and D2 can be regarded as disclosing the closest prior art. Both documents disclose the same type of reaction using the same educts and yielding the same products.

The only and most important difference between these prior art documents and the claimed process is represented by the use of different catalysts.

D1 discloses the use of a chromium oxide based catalyst containing copper, nickel and alkali metals.

D2 discloses the use of trivalent chromium catalysts.

In contrast to D1/D2 the claimed process uses crystalline alpha-chromium oxide containing nickel and/or trivalent cobalt in certain amounts.

The subject matter of present claims 1 to 3 is thus novel over the disclosure of D1 and D2 (PCT Article 33.2).

2. The underlying problem can be defined by the provision of an alternative process for preparing the title compounds.

The solution is represented by the claimed process which is characterised by the use of the different catalyst. The problem has thus been solved as can be seen by the performed examples.

The prior art gives no hint towards the use of the catalyst as in the claimed process. In addition due to the use of this catalyst the reaction temperature can be lowered compared with the processes of D1 and D2.

The subject matter of present claims 1 to 3 is thus based on an inventive step over the disclosure of D1 and D2 (PCT Article 33.3).

3. Industrial applicability is given for all claims (PCT Article 33.4).